

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

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DRAFT MINUTES **Executive Committee Conference Call** **Thursday, November 29, 2007 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m., e.s.t.**

Executive Committee Members Present: Martin Massengale, Chair; Walt Armbruster, Vice Chair, Marty Apple, Carol Keiser, Marianne Smith-Edge, Mary Wagner, Dr. Gale Buchanan, REE, Under Secretary and (Ex-officio).

Executive Committee Members Absent: David Thomassen, Daryl Lund, Edward Runge

Board Staff Participation: Joseph Dunn, Executive Director, NAREEE Advisory Board, Shirley Morgan-Jordan, Program Support Coordinator.



I. Welcome and Update

Joe Dunn called roll of the Executive Committee members.

Martin Massengale welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided some introductory remarks. He asked the Board's staff to confirm with Executive Committee members before each future meeting if they will be attending, and to confirm the attendance of those non-members who have been asked to give reports at these meetings. Marty Apple remarked that he had communicated with Jim Zuiches and that Jim had a topic for our next Board meeting he asked Marty to bring to the Committee's attention. Martin suggested that the Committee hold off discussing topics for future meetings of the Board until later when it is scheduled on the agenda. Martin did comment that he felt the format of the meetings should be reviewed and that it may be desirable for the REE Agencies to provide summary reports on topics which they would like to receive inputs from the Board. These topics would then be discussed by the members at the meeting.

II. Update on Reports and Recommendations from the October Meeting

Martin then asked Mary Wagner to report on the progress made in formulating recommendations from the Organic Farming focus Session from the October meeting.

Mary Wagner stated that Daryl Lund had sent a two page draft of the Organic Farming report to the Board office requesting that it be forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and comments.

She asked that Board staff follow up on that request and stated that the draft report contained the following recommendations for REE:

- 1) Fill the National Program Leader position for organic farming.
- 2) Develop a roadmap for change in organic agriculture.
- 3) CSREES should examine how it supports postdoctoral fellowships in organic agriculture.
- 4) The National Agricultural Library should be a clearinghouse for organic agriculture information nationally.

After the draft report is read and critiqued by the Executive Committee, it will be sent to the whole Board for comments, and then sent later forwarded to the Secretary and Members of Congress.

Walt Armbruster then told the Committee that the report on Entrepreneurship and Rural Development was still being formulated by the Working Group. Martin asked that both reports be finalized and ready for delivery to the Secretary by mid-January.

III. Update on the Farm Bill

Joe Dunn reported on the status of the Senate's version of the Farm Bill. He said that it is currently "in limbo" due to the large number of amendments being considered (> 200). The expectation is that no more than 20 amendments will be introduced on the Senate floor, and it is the process of arriving at those 20 that is taking an inordinate amount of time. Joe then said he understood that once the amendments are agreed upon, it may take only a few more weeks to complete preparation of the final Senate version. He further commented that the Administration wants a Farm Bill, but only if it is within reason. Finally, Joe stated he was told that Senator Nelson from Nebraska introduced an amendment re-authorizing the NAREEE Advisory Board but at a funding level of \$500,000 annually.

IV. Discussion on Dates and Times of Future Executive Committee Meetings

Martin Massengale asked if the 12 noon to 1 pm (eastern standard time) time slot was convenient for everyone to attend future tele-meetings of the Executive Committee, and all present agreed to that time slot. A discussion ensued between the committee members regarding the best day of the week, and best week in the month to hold these meetings. It was concluded that the second Wednesday of each month was most suitable. However, one member of the Executive Committee had a problem with Wednesday in December. That meeting was moved to Thursday, December 20. Joe Dunn was instructed to send by email the dates and times for all future Executive Committee meetings for 2008 to each Committee member.

V. Planning for the Spring Meeting

Joe Dunn informed the Committee that the Double Tree hotel on Rhode Island Ave. in Washington DC had reserved the dates of March 18 through 20 for our next meeting. He asked the Committee to give final approval of this location and those dates so he could sign the contract by Friday, November 30. The Committee did approve, and a discussion began on the format for the meeting and it was agreed that the meeting should start with an evening session on March 18 and finish by noon of March 20. The committee asked Dr. Buchanan if he would consider participating in

planning the meeting, and he agreed. Further discussion then took place regarding the meeting's Focus Sessions. Marty Apple asked the Committee to consider the future "pipeline" of agricultural scientists, technicians and other workers to meet the demand as we continue toward a greater bioeconomy as one of the Spring meeting's focus topics. All agreed this is a timely and critical topic. Marty Apple, Mary Wagner and Carol Kaiser volunteered to join the program planning group on this topic. Martin Massengale then told the Committee that he and Walt Armbruster will begin appointing members to this Work Group as well as a second Work Group one were needed.

VI. Appointment of Members to the Protocol, Relevancy and Adequacy and Peer Review Sub-committees.

Martin Massengale reported that he and Walt Armbruster had chosen members on the Protocol, Relevance and Adequacy and Peer Review sub-committees for the 2008 operating year of the Board. They are as follow:

<u>Protocol</u>	<u>Relevancy and Adequacy</u>	<u>Peer Review</u>
John Cunningham, Chair	Daryl Lund, Chair	Tom Fretz, Chair
James Clark, Vice-Chair	Alton Thompson, Vice Chair	Ed Runge, CoChair
Ricardo Chavez Rel	Tom Rosol	James Layton
Charles Coley	Cal Dooley	Robin Douhitt
Nancy Cox	James Zuiches	Marty Apple
	David Thomassen	
	John Salois	
	Dave Hilferty	

VIII. Other Issues

Martin Massengale opened the meeting for comment or other issues that need attention. Marianne Smith-Edge wanted the committee to know that the report on the meeting of the National Agricultural Library *adhoc* Task Force was still under construction and that it will be sent on to the Committee when the first draft is finalized.

Hearing no other comments, Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

MARTIN MASSENGALE
Chair

JOSEPH DUNN
Acting, Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD: _____
Date

Initials
Chair

Initials
Executive Director